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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1941

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KIRKBURTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1941.

Lepton,
September 1st, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkburton Urban District Council.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I here present my annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1941. As in the previous year much time has been taken up with salvage, billeting of evacuees, petrol and fuel control, A.R.P. ambulance and other A.R.P. affairs. This work has been lightened by the appointment at the end of January of a Billeting Officer and shorthand typist in the Health Department and by the supervision of the Decontamination Party, with the exception of food decontamination, being taken off the Sanitary Inspector's duties at the end of the year. This was rendered more necessary as on the resignation of Mr. Hutchinson, on obtaining another post, it was decided to carry on the sanitary work with one inspector with the help of Mrs. Law in the clerical work.

Statistics of Social Conditions of the Area.

Officers: A. Tait, M.B., Part-time M.O.H.; A. B. Hutchinson, A.M.I.S.E., Chief Sanitary Inspector; John Hewitt, A.R.San.I., Additional Sanitary Inspector; Mrs. B. Law, Billeting Officer and Typist to the Sanitary Department.

Area.—14,577 acres.

Population.—Registrar-General's estimated mid 1941 18,540. Excluding Storthes Hall Mental Hospital population the estimated mid 1941 population is 14,950.

Rateable value and sum represented by a penny rate. respectively £70,627—£277 6s. 0d.

		M.	F.	Total.	
Live Births—Legitimate	...	124	116	240	
Illegitimate	...	8	2	10	
Total	...	132	118	250	
			Rate per 1,000		15.9.
Still Births—Legitimate	...	2	5	7	
Illegitimate	...	1	0	1	
Total	...	3	5	8	
			Rate per 1,000		.53.
Deaths		79	119	198	
			Rate per 1,000		13.2.

In addition 13 deaths were allotted to the area of deaths in patients at Storthes Hall Mental Hospital which could not be allocated to any other district.

The rates are calculated on an estimated mid 1941 population of 14,950 excluding Storthes Hall Mental Hospital.

The corresponding figures for England and Wales are: Live Births 14.2. Still Births .51. Deaths 12.9. Infantile Mortality Rate 59.

Deaths from puerperal causes—

Puerperal Sepsis 0. Other Puerperal Causes 0.

Deaths of Infants under one year—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	72
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births	66
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	200
Deaths from Cancer	16
Deaths from Measles	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	1

The deaths recorded in the district corrected with the inward and outward transfers are recorded in the following table, classified in the sixteen commonest causes and apportioned to the different wards. It will be seen that the birth rate is higher than last year and the rate for England and Wales. The death rate is lower than last year but still above the rate for England and

Wales, as is also the infantile mortality rate. The number of accidental deaths, 23, including 3 suicides, is very large. These include 4 who lost their lives in a fire in Huddersfield.

Table I.

	Flockton	Kirkheaton	Kirkburton	Lepton	Shelley	Shepley	Thurstonland	Farnley Tyas	Whitley Upper	Total
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	2	12	19	12	10	10	5	...	4	74
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	...	3	2	5	2	...	...	1	...	13
Cancer	...	1	4	7	1	2	1	...	...	16
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	1	5	3	...	2	1	1	...	13
Violent Deaths	2	1	5	6	3	1	2	...	3	23
Suicide	...	*1*	...	*2*	...	...	...	...	...	*3*
Others	*2*	...	*5*	*4*	*3*	*1*	*2*	...	*3*	*20*
Tuberculosis	1	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	6
Pulmonary	*1*	*1*	*2*	*1*	*1*	...	...	...	...	*6*
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases of Digestive System ...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	4
Congenital Debility	...	4	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	9
Influenza	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	5
Diabetes	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	2	6
Diphtheria	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Whooping Cough	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	2	1	5	3	3	3	...	...	1	18
Causes Undefined	1	1	1	3	...	...	...	1	1	8
Total	10	27	49	47	22	19	10	3	11	198

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Facilities—The W.R.C.C. Laboratory at Wakefield performs all the necessary examination, swabs, water and milk samples, etc.

Ambulances—Infectious Cases. The Mill Hill Isolation Hospital Ambulance removes Infectious cases. General and accident: Motor ambulance at Hepworth's Garage, subsidized by the L.A. and the Huddersfield Hospital Contributory Scheme motor ambulance is available to contributors. The ambulance service has been and is efficient for the district in normal times.

Nursing in the Home—With the exception of Flockton, Whitley Upper, Farnley Tyas and Thurstonland, the district is adequately served by the District Nursing Associations in Lepton, Kirkburton, Shepley and Kirkheaton.

Clinics. Ante-natal and Child Welfare: Two W.R.C.C. Clinics are held at Kirkburton and Lepton weekly, Tuesdays 2—4. Ante-natal Clinic at Lepton third Thursday 2—4.

Tuberculosis—W.R.C.C. Clinic at 1, Peel Street, Huddersfield, Tuesday and Friday at 2 p.m. X. Ray examinations at the Medical Centre, Sowerby Bridge, by appointment.

V.D. Clinic held at the Royal Infirmary, Huddersfield, Men and Women, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 6—8-30 p.m. Wednesday 10—12 noon.

Hospitals—The district is served by the following institutions in the neighbouring townships:

Infectious Diseases.—Mill Hill Isolation Hospital, Huddersfield.

General and Accident.—Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, Dewsbury Royal Infirmary, Clayton Hospital, Wakefield.

Maternity Cases.—Huddersfield Borough Maternity Home, Greenhead; Dewsbury Borough Maternity Home; Staincliffe County Hospital, Dewsbury; White Rose County Hospital, Wakefield; Memorial Hospital, Holmfirth.

The Staincliffe and White Rose Hospitals are also available for the sick, poor and other classes without distinction. Abnormal maternity and puerperal cases can be admitted to the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, the Colne and Holme Isolation Hospital and the two Municipal Hospitals at Staincliffe and White Rose, Wakefield.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Nuisances.

Total number of nuisance inspections	152
Nuisances found	150
Nuisances in hand from 1940	18
	168
Nuisances abated in 1941	135
Outstanding at end of 1941	33
Informal notices served	61
Informal notices complied with	30
Statutory notices served	6
Statutory notices complied with	5
Summonses or other legal proceedings	nil.

Classification of Nuisances.

Blocked Sewers	11
Blocked and defective drains	20
Defective privies and ashpits	15
„ Roofs	4
„ Eaves-gutters	4
„ Down-spouts	2
„ Gullies	1
„ Sinks	1
„ Waste-pipes	7
„ Water-closets	2
„ Windows	2
„ Water-supply	4
„ Dustbins	38
Verminous Houses	4
Overcrowding	3
Flooded cellars	1
Dirty Cowsheds	4
Miscellaneous	23
Total ...	150

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.

There are no Common Lodging Houses, Houses let in lodgings, Canal Boats, Knackers Yards, or Tents and Vans in the district. Offensive Trades 2 registered; inspections 4, general conditions satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There have been no extensions during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

Pail or Tub Closets 81.
Privies with open and covered middens 1590.
Water Closets 2778. Waste Water Closets 7.
Closets and Privies reconstructed as W.C.'s 0.
Additional Closets provided for old property as W.C.'s 7.
A grant of £3 and Dustbin is given by the Council towards the cost of voluntary conversion.

Scavenging.

Public scavenging is in operation throughout the whole district. The refuse is disposed of wholly by tipping on the controlled system. The total cost of collection and disposal of refuse was £3,270. The salvage of waste material has been intensified during the year and the amount realized £621.

Water Supply.

The Huddersfield Corporation supply and distribute to part of the district. The Dewsbury Water Board supply is distributed by the Urban District Council. There are also two private supplies at Farnley Tyas and Shepley. Dwelling houses on public supply 4,750.

There have been no extensions during the year and the supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity except at Northmoor, Kirkheaton.

Samples have been taken at intervals of the two private supplies for bacteriological examination and all were satisfactory.

The houses at Northmoor, Kirkheaton, are using water from a well as the public supply was practically nil through corroding of a long length of iron piping. The sample from the well was unsatisfactory. The Huddersfield Corporation agreed to the laying of asbestos

cement piping to replace the iron pipes and the position at the end of the year was that the Sanitary Inspector was in correspondence with the agents of the property.

Milk Supply.

Two registers are kept as required by Section 2 (3) Milk Dairies Amendment Act 1922 for retailers and Cowkeepers or wholesale traders. There have been no retailers removed from the register.

Cowkeepers in district 140. Registered 140.
Total number of cowsheds 184.
Total number of cowshed inspections 58.
Number of wholesale traders registered 46.
Number of retail milk sellers 101.

During the year only a small number of samples taken by the County Council have been reported unsatisfactory. At the same time a number of cowsheds in use in the district require considerable alteration and improvement before they conform with the standards required. This is another matter that will have to be deferred owing to present conditions.

Housing.

No action has been taken under the Housing Acts during the year. Owing to the suspension of demolition and the urgent need for housing accommodation brought about by the influx of both evacuees and soldiers' wives a number of houses subject to demolition orders have not been dealt with. It is unlikely their demolition will be proceeded with until the war is over.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Two Council houses and two others were found infested. They were disinfected by spraying and fumigation by the local authority and bedding steam disinfected by the Huddersfield Corporation Sanitary Department.

Swimming Baths.

There is one swimming bath open to the public. Capacity 20,000 gallons. The water is sand filtered and chlorinated. The water has been tested regularly, chemically and bacteriologically. It is never satisfactory for long owing to the poor pumping arrangement which is frequently breaking down.

Schools.

There are 14 elementary schools in the district. All have been frequently visited in respect to examination of suspicious cases of infection reported by the head teachers and exclusion of contacts. No schools have been closed. The serious sanitary defects at Thurstonland have now been remedied and the school is in a quite satisfactory condition.

Bye-laws and Regulations.

Building Bye-laws, 1939.
Removal of House Refuse, 1939.
Smoke Abatement, 1939.
Cesspools, 1939.

Mortuaries.

For accidents and other cases 2. Lepton Old Council Rooms and Town Hall, Kirkburton.

For infectious cases. There is none now since infectious cases were removed to Mill Hill Hospital, Huddersfield.

Infectious Disease.

Again this year has been remarkably free from infectious disease with the exception of an epidemic of whooping cough following last year's outbreak of measles which died away in January. It affected practically the whole of the area reaching its intensity in May and June. A total of 142 cases were notified but there were many more as whooping cough is still regarded as a necessary evil and not worthy of medical attention or supervision.

Sporadic cases of scarlet fever, 11 in 5 wards, and similarly 7 cases of diphtheria were reported from 4 wards. None of these had been immunized and there was one death.

Three cases of cerebro-spinal fever occurred and the M.O., Royal Corps of Signals, was notified, as was also the single case of typhoid which was in a nurse from Storthes Hall Mental Hospital billeted out and undoubtedly connected with case notified from there.

Influenza of a mild type was prevalent in the spring. An unusual number of pneumonia cases,17, were scattered through the year and apparently not connected with the influenza cases. Only 3 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and 9 cases, chiefly cervical glands, of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

I arranged with the M.O.H. of Huddersfield for the hospital treatment of cases of whooping cough and measles if necessary on account of the severity of the case or the unfavourable home conditions in accordance with the memorandum from the Ministry of Health. The medical men in the area were circularized to this effect. As in previous years I have received from the head teachers reports of suspected cases and of contacts which are most helpful.

The following tables show the numbers notified from the different wards and numbers sent to hospital, and also the tuberculosis cases with the age incidence for pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases.

Infectious Diseases.

	Flockton	Kirkburton	Kirkheaton	Lepton	Shelley	Shepley	Thurstonland	Farnley Tyas	Whitley Upper	Total	Removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	1	3	1	4	—	—	2	—	—	11	10
Diphtheria	2	—	2	2	—	1	6†	—	—	13	13
Pneumonia	2	2	1	8	1	—	1	—	2	17	—
Typhoid	—	1	—	—	—	—	1†	—	—	2	2
Measles	4	1	1	3	—	—	1	1	—	11	—
Whooping Cough	23	72	16	16	5	2	—	3	5	142	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	3
Polio-Myletis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorium ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis	1	4	1	—	3	1	1	—	1	12	—
Pulmonary	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	1	—	3	1	1	—	1	9	—
Total	34	85	23	37	9	5	12	5	8	218	31

† Storthes Hall Mental Hospital.

Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1941.

Cases Notified or otherwise ascertained.

	Non-Civilians	Civilians
Smallpox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	11
Diphtheria—including Mem. Croup	1	13
Enteric Fever—Typhoid	—	2
Enteric Fever—Paratyphoid	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	1	16
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	—	—
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Dysentery	—	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1
Erysipelas	—	5
Respiratory Tuberculosis (New Cases only)	—	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis (New Cases only)	—	9
Malaria—Contracted in this country	—	—
Malaria—Contracted abroad	—	—
Malaria—Inducted in Institutions†	—	—
Chickenpox	—	a few
Measles (excluding German Measles or Rubella)	—	11
Whooping Cough	—	142
Other Diseases	—	—

Cases removed to Hospital.

Smallpox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	10
Diphtheria	—	13
Enteric Fever	—	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	3
Erysipelas	—	2
Pertussis Broncho Pneumonia	—	1

† Notified under the proviso to Article 5 of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927.

Chickenpox was not compulsorily notifiable in this district during the year 1941.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	2	2	2	—	1	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	3	4	5	2	4	—	—

Immunization for Diphtheria.

In January a circular letter was sent to all head teachers along with leaflets asking them to make a special effort to get parents' consents, and the W.R.C.C. nurses were asked to co-operate in getting the under 5's to the school clinics. Forty-two were held at the fourteen elementary schools and by the end of the year 587 more children had been immunized—190 under 5's and 397 of school age. The estimated number of children under 5 and between 5 and 15 are respectively 850 and 1,900. Taken together with those treated in previous years, at the present time 35% of the under 5's and 63% of the older children have been protected.

A better method of approach will have to be made next year as 70% –80% of the child population should be protected for their own sake and to prevent any serious epidemic.

7 cases of diphtheria were notified in the area with one death. None of these had been immunized.

The material used was A.P.T., Dose.1c.c. and .3 c.c.

Scabies Order, 1941.

A circular was sent to the medical men in the area,

the usual fee for notification to be paid. The use of part of the Old Boys' Pavilion at Waterloo was obtained free of cost for baths, shower and dressing and treatment room. The necessary equipment was taken from the stores of the Kirkburton Isolation Hospital.

The district nurses and the W.R.C.C. nurses, with Dr. Pott's approval, agreed to supervise the treatment.

Reception of Evacuees.

At the beginning of the year there were 159 evacuees in the district. During the year a total of 184 mothers and children were received and also 25 under 5's under "The Yorkshire Aunties" scheme came into the district.

At the end of the year 242 evacuees remained in the area.

In February 6 mothers and 12 children were admitted from London.

In March 55 children from Shoreham.

In May 21 mothers and 40 children from Metropolitan Evacuation area.

In June 17 mothers and 31 children from London.

In August 2 children from Shoreham.

All these were medically examined on arrival, particularly with regard to the presence of any infectious condition, any defects requiring supervision or treatment and expectant mothers. The W.R.C.C. nurses working in the area where the evacuees were billeted were kept informed.

Expectant mothers with children under 5 years went to a convalescent home in Harrogate in the 8th month of pregnancy, pending admission to a maternity home.

The billeting officer, Mrs. Law, has been very assiduous in looking after the welfare of the evacuees in addition to the necessary large clerical work.

The Blood Donor Campaign from April 16th to 24th ended in May with a total of 626 donors, a very successful result due to work put in by voluntary helpers particularly the staff at the First Aid Post and the W.R.C.C. nurses.

A.R.P.

The Kirkburton Urban District forms part of the Upper Agbrigg A.R.P. Area. The First Aid Service consists of a Fixed First Aid Post at Eldon House, Kirkburton, M.O., Dr. J. A. Stephens. Eight First Aid Parties with cars at the following depots: Kirkheaton old Council Rooms; Flockton old Council Rooms; Lepton old Council Rooms, Greavehouse; Shelley Barkhouse Chapel; Shepley Conservative Club; and Stocksmoor Town Moor Road. There are also nine First Aid Points manned by First Aid trained women at Lepton Cowms Chapel, Lydgate Post Office; Grangemoor at Mr. Abraham Schofields; Farnley Tyas, The Cock; Thurstonland old Council Rooms; Kirkheaton old Council Rooms; Shelley Barkhouse Chapel; Shepley Conservative Club; Flockton Old Council Rooms.

Ambulances.—One and car with trailer at Shepley; one at Kirkheaton.

A course of First Aid Lectures was given at Whitley Upper in September, attended by 29 men and 15 women.

A circular letter was sent to the doctors and midwives in the district asking for monthly lists of expectant mothers to enable them being supplied in the 7th month with babies' respiratory helmets.

In April Feeding and Shelter Centres were established by the W.R.C.C. at the Masonic Hall, Kirkburton, and Cowms Chapel Sunday School, after an inspection and report to the W.R.C.C. M.O.H. by the Sanitary Inspector, Public Assistance Officer and myself.

In November two additional centres were arranged at the Primitive Methodist Sunday School, Grangemoor, and the Church of England Day School, Kirkburton, after a similar report.

Yours obediently,

A. TAIT,

Medical Officer of Health.